

Society: Our Brother's Keeper

THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH ON MODERN PROBLEMS. By Various Writers. The Macmillan Company.

FACING THE CRISIS. By Sherwood Eddy. George H. Doran Company.

THAT BOY AND GIRL OF YOURS. By Wilbur Crafts. Baker and Taylor Company.

THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. By Frank D. Watson. The Macmillan Company.

THE LAW OF CITY PLANNING AND ZONING. By Frank B. Williams. The Macmillan Company.

LABOR TURNOVER IN INDUSTRY. By Paul F. Brissenden and E. Frankel. The Macmillan Company.

AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM. By George M. Jones. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

THE KANSAS COURT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. By John H. Bowers. A. C. McClurg & Co.

THE FARMER AND HIS COMMUNITY. By Dwight Sanderson. Harcourt, Brace & Co.

TO-DAY we answer Cain's question, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" in the affirmative. This is shown by certain speeches made at the thirty-seventh church congress of the Episcopalians at Baltimore. Such topics as the revolt of youth from earlier standards, psychoanalysis and labor's demand for continuous employment received more thorough consideration than creed and church unity.

"Facing the Crisis" comprises the Fonden lectures which Sherwood Eddy delivered at the Southern Methodist University. He holds that individual religion is necessary for a solution of our social ills. He gives a brief but effective resume of the problems which confront us. The best portion of the book is the statement of his personal creed and of his belief in immortality.

Wilbur Crafts is Superintendent of the International Reform Bureau. He is assisted by a very intelligent wife. From their talks to Chautauquas they have compiled a volume of "Familiar Talks on That Boy and Girl of Yours." The volume argues that social training should begin in the home, and is of great help to parents. Frank D. Watson writes on "The Charity Organization Movement in the United States." His material comes from conferences, visits to organizations and a wide correspondence. He shows that "irresponsible philanthropy" is passing and the necessity for a "technique of social diagnosis." He traces the growth of modern charity organizations from Saint Vincent de Paul to the present. He gives the general tendencies and the more important details. The phases which are most important to-day are the nationalization of the movement and the renaissance of social case work. He does not agree with these critics who assail charity for its costliness. He says "Few complain because a doctor's services cost more than his medicine."

"The Law of City Planning and Zoning," by Frank B. Williams, shows that public enterprise is limiting private initiative. The author has acted as the representative of New York city abroad and is the consultant of several cities here. He bases his book upon lectures he delivered at the University of Michigan. He says "City planning as a science and as an art has been taught for some time, but the legal side of the question has not been given the prominence that is essential." Mr. Williams gives an exhaustive survey of his topic and tells where to find all the statutes and cases which apply. He chronicles a great step forward in the assumption of authority by the State.

Paul F. Brissenden and E. Frankel have written on "Labor Turnover in Industry." Their book is called "A Statistical Analysis." It is an attempt to plot the curves of the human equation with mathematical precision. They employ fifty-four tables and ten charts. They deal with the problem of labor instability "primarily from the standpoint of the individual establishment." They reach the conclusion that "scientific employment like high wages in the long run is an economy. Policies of wholesale lay-off and indiscriminate discharge are very costly. It pays to conserve human as well as material resources."

George M. Jones gives a concise history

of "American Trade Unionism." He is sympathetic in his attitude. He says "Collective bargaining is the ultimate goal of nearly all labor leaders, and to reach it not only organization but discipline is needed. The strike is a weapon of last resort in most cases." To illustrate the history of this movement Mr. Jones describes the Shingle Weavers, the American Federation of Labor, and the International Workers of the World.

John H. Bowers is strongly in favor of "The Kansas Court of Industrial Relations." He says "Duelling by private

agreement was long ago forbidden by the State, and the modern industrial conflict which wastes time and wealth and causes useless suffering and injustice must be prevented." He holds that "when there is a strike in an essential industry which stops the supply of a vital necessity, the public has a right to see that production is resumed." He believes the Court of Industrial Relations is the best method which has been so far devised.

Rural problems receive consideration in "The Farmer and His Community," by Dwight Sanderson. The best in modern life is now being brought to the farmer's door. Mr. Sanderson is very comprehensive in his treatment of country life, but he lays most stress upon education and the extension movement.

Poetry Persists

LYRIC FORMS FROM FRANCE: THEIR HISTORY AND THEIR USE. By Helen Louise Cohen. With an Anthology of Ballades, Chants Royal, Rondeaux, Triolets, Villanelles and Sestinas in English Verse. Harcourt, Brace & Co.

OUR BEST POETS: ENGLISH AND AMERICAN. By Theodore Maynard. Henry Holt & Co.

AN INTRODUCTION TO POETRY. By Jay B. Hubbell and John O. Beatty. The Macmillan Company.

SINCE Gleeson White's collection of "Ballades and Rondeaux," published in 1887 and dedicated to Robert Louis Stevenson, no similar anthology has appeared until this one by the accomplished historian of "The Ballade." The book is bound to become a standard and convenient book of reference for everybody not tone deaf to the allurements of recurring cadences and hidden rimes. Not all poetry must hereafter be written with the unbound zone of the impatient muse of irregular lines that break through music and escape. Many lovers of delicacy, freshness and the fascination of formal verse on a childish holiday are pretty sure to come back humbly enough to serve the altar upon which the most versatile poets of all lands have laid their offerings, from Villon's consummate ballade, "Neiges d'antan" to Brander Matthews's triolet upon the August climate of New York.

The long historical introduction holds golden grains for the younger brood of poets to sow and cultivate in their gardens, and the successive forms are considered at length and from all points of view. A useful and amusing "Rule of Thumb" is provided for the construction of all these varieties of delicate verse. The anthology fills nearly 400 pages, the work of many different authors, and there are voluminous indexes.

Mr. Theodore Maynard takes the bull boldly by the horns in his title, as he does in his text; he tells you what's what among the poets, yet so good humoredly and with such a dignity of quiet courtesy that to take offense at his proclamations would be difficult, however proclamatory they may be. He has no fancy for faint praise, neither for letting anybody down easily. Downright and outspoken as his book sounds from beginning to end, his judgments are based on the unshakable foundations, and the structures he erects are well balanced and lighted with many windows of illustration and scholarship. His English range includes G. K. Chester-

ton, Alice Meynell, Charles Williams, Walter de la Mare, Ralph Hodgson, W. B. Yeats, Hilaire Belloc, J. C. Squire, W. H. Davies, Lascelles Abercrombie, Lawrence Binyon and John Masefield. His American list is polished off in shorter space: Edwin Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost, Amy Lowell, Carl Sandburg, Edgar Lee Masters (a trinity which show, as he sees it, the fallacy of free verse), William Rose and Stephen Vincent Benet, Sara Teasdale, Edna St. Vincent Millay and Ridgeley Torrence; in this group he finds progress "from a Greek city to Greenwich Village." And he thinks Robinson is "a humorist who cannot laugh."

A good example of Mr. Maynard's discriminating study may be found in his valuation of Mrs. Meynell's work, which, he says, shows the essays striking through into the poetry and the poetry into the essays. After quoting four stanzas from "A General Communion" he remarks: "Not only in this case but in every case emotion is guarded and guided by the intellect. Indeed, it is her tyrannic intellectualism which has prevented the world from realizing the fiery passion that glows in her work, kept severely under control." The critic pays tribute to the wizardry of Mr. De la Mare, but insists that he sometimes fumbles his box of tricks. As to Mr. J. C. Squire, he finds him "one of the best of contemporary poets," but shrewdly suspects that he is a poet not born but made. He finds an Ariel quality in his versatility, and (like many others) thinks that in his poems of "The Birds" and "The Rivers" he touches high water mark. Ralph Hodgson is cut in cameo as "the last blackbird, that becomes the phoenix." He finds John Masefield a Chaucerian classicist in technic, and his admiration for some of the lyrics does not blind him to the greater importance of his later work. He finds him an adorer of beauty, a Fatalist and devoid of the slightest sense of humor.

Altogether Mr. Maynard's book is vivid and stimulating; somebody calls it "wide awake." It cannot be understood through a review; it should be read, and it will be found well worth reading.

"An Introduction to Poetry" is not intended more for the general reader than for the undergraduate; its purpose is to display the technic of poetry and to give a convenient opportunity to compare the new and the older English and American poets. In this well planned book, also, generous space is given to the irresistible demand of the old French forms.

Recent Philosophical Works

HARMONISM AND CONSCIOUS EVOLUTION. By Sir Charles Walston. The Macmillan Company.

WE ARE HERE—WHY? By Edna Wadsworth Moody. Marshall Jones Company.

THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE ATOM. By Alice A. Bailey. Lucifer Publishing Company.

A FIRST BOOK IN LOGIC. By Henry Bradford Smith. Harper & Brothers.

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. By Maurice De Wulf. Harvard University Press.

PHILOSOPHY is perhaps the oldest of human studies, and in many respects is the most inconclusive in its results, the furthest removed from practical life, and yet the most necessary. For the very reason that schools of philosophy in the past have always tended to conflict and that no such thing as The Truth has ever been isolated, philosophy

remains a field of abiding interest; for while a continuous line of progress may be traced from the earliest Greek philosophers to the present, yet that progress has by no means reached a culmination; and so long as the human mind continues to manifest an unsatisfied curiosity regarding the universe, so long will philosophy continue to be of importance.

Every new book of philosophy, accordingly, should be the object of our respectful attention—for who knows what volume may not contain the key to some truth previously undiscovered? Take, for example, Sir Charles Walston's treatise on "Harmonism and Conscious Evolution." Here we find an attempt to formulate a new point of view toward the universe; to propound a philosophy of "Harmonism,"

a philosophy that may harmonize the apparently conflicting elements in nature and in human life, "the Real and the Ideal, the Practical and the Theoretical, the Useful and the Good, Truth and Beauty, self interests and the claims of others, our actual life and the life of religious aspiration." Mr. Walston declares that "What is needed is a new and convincing outlook upon the whole of modern life and thought, and a reform of our ethics, leading to the reform of religion." In order to arrive at such a new outlook, the author begins by considering the dominance of the esthetic or what he terms the "harmonistic" instinct in the ordinary affairs of life; he traces its origin back to the earliest life, of plants as well as of animals; and, having thus established his premises, he considers in detail the application of "Harmonism" in science, art, ethics, politics and religion, and develops what he describes as the principle of "Conscious Evolution" in the life of intelligent beings. Mr. Walston's book is well reasoned and carefully written, and constitutes a unified philosophical system deserving of general attention.

Alice A. Bailey's "The Consciousness of the Atom," and Edna Wadsworth Moody's "We Are Here—Why?" likewise represent attempts to arrive at individual philosophies—but neither of these volumes is likely to be received with whole hearted approval by those of us who are not mystics. The former book is made up of a series of lectures that consider various phases of evolution, the evolution of form, of substance, of consciousness, of men, and of the cosmos; and for her conclusions the author resorts to occultism. Mrs. Moody's book, likewise, has recourse to esoteric teachings; the author inquires into the reasons for human existence, the reasons why each of us are here on earth; and, after a consideration of various religions and mystical doctrines, she concludes that the ultimate truths are contained in the Bible—that we are here for love and a life of service.

Unlike the above mentioned books, the remaining two volumes devote themselves to resurveying known philosophical fields rather than to presenting original philosophies. Henry Bradford Smith's "First Book in Logic" is a text book that endeavors to vary the traditional treatment of logic by taking cognizance of recent developments; and Professor De Wulf's dissertation on "Medieval Philosophy" is a brief study of the scholastic teachings, illustrated from the system of Thomas Aquinas. After dealing comprehensively with the principles of scholasticism, the author finds that the chief characteristics of the philosophy of the schoolmen were its moderation and sense of limit, its doctrinal coherence, its faith in the supremacy of reason, its emphasis on the value of personality, and its Catholic theology.

Winchester's Essays

AN OLD CASTLE AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Caleb T. Winchester. Edited by L. B. Gillet. The Macmillan Company.

THIS is a volume that will receive the warmest possible welcome from the many thousand admirers of the late Prof. Winchester, for no great teacher of the last generation was ever better loved than he, and his influence extended far beyond his class rooms, and beyond the other colleges where he was for many years one of the most popular visitors. The paper which gives the title to this selection was delivered several hundred times, but has never before been printed. That is also true of all the essays in the volume except those on Ruskin, Clough and Bronson Alcott, which appeared in a magazine of small circulation. This collection is thus substantially a new book; a most valuable addition to the small bulk of his collected remains.

But it must not be forgotten that these essays are intrinsically of importance; literary criticism of the highest order. Prof. Sir Walter Raleigh of Oxford once said that "Of all the men I met in America the most interesting was a man by the name of Winchester"—of whom he had never heard until he came here. He is better known, now that his work is done. This collection holds an appreciative estimate of his work by Henry W. Nevins. Beside the papers already noted it contains four lectures on Shakespeare, two on the literature of the age of Queen Anne and others on Swift, Burns, Browning and Arthur Clough.